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United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
FS-401

The Natural Resource and Environmental Education Program of the Forest Service

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Have you ever wanted to . . .
. . . broaden your understanding of natural resource issues?
. . . learn how your daily activities rely on natural resources?
. . . participate in natural resource management activities?
. . . involve students in natural resource studies that consider State education requirements?
You can do all this and more through the Natural Resource and Environmental Education (NREE) Program of the Forest Service.

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What is the NREE Program?

The NREE Program is an exciting approach to natural resource education that includes both basic environmental education activities and specific explorations about current issues affecting the management of natural resources. The Forest Service created the NREE Program because it is concerned with the management, protection, and use of our natural resources. The program helps you to better understand, and explain to others, the importance of natural resource management.

In addition, the NREE Program encourages participation in natural resource management activities, thereby ensuring a balanced perspective in the conservation and wise use of our natural resources. People are motivated to become involved because the program links the learning process to real issues in natural resource management in which participants already have (or quickly develop) an interest.

What is a Natural Resource Issue?

A natural resource issue develops when people disagree on how a resource should be managed. For example, some people may want to use an area to grow and harvest trees for lumber and paper. Others may want to manage that same area for wilderness instead. Issues like this must be resolved to ensure effective stewardship of our natural resources. Resolving natural resource issues requires decisions based on an understanding of natural processes and a careful consideration of alternative management solutions.

The Two Parts of the NREE Program

1. **Environmental education activities are contained in the popular Investigating Your Environment series.** Detailed lesson plans encourage participants to observe their surroundings and to collect, record, and interpret data about the environment.

2. **Natural resource issue modules add the exciting feature of education activities and briefing materials about natural resource issues.** The following four components of each issue module can be used alone or combined with other components to build an entire program.

- **The issue overview provides a short written description of the issue.** This description explains the background of the issue, identifies the natural resource values at risk, defines the management problem, and describes possible management solutions. This narrative is well illustrated with photographs, drawings, or maps.
- **The education activities provide learning exercises designed to help in understanding concepts, developing skills, and clarifying values.** Each activity includes all the information required to complete a learning exercise. Education activities are generally prepared for students but may also be designed for other audiences.

- **The briefing materials can be used to present natural resource issues to adult audiences.** These briefing sessions use audiovisual materials to make effective presentations. Briefing materials can be tailored to meet the special needs of any audience.
- **The bibliography lists references to help with further studies.** The references are organized by subject matter or age group for easy use.

You Are Invited!

A growing number of national and international leaders in environmental education are using the NREE Program. The Forest Service invites you to join us in exploring a variety of challenging resource management issues.

For more information on how the NREE Program can help meet your needs, please contact the Forest Service regional office nearest you.

Alaska Region
Federal Office Building
P.O. Box 1628
Juneau, AK 99802
907-586-8849

Eastern Region
310 W. Wisconsin Avenue
Room 500
Milwaukee, WI 53203
414-291-3640

Intermountain Region
Federal Building
324 25th Street
Ogden, UT 84401
802-625-5348

Northern Region
Federal Building
P.O. Box 7669
Missoula, MT 59807
406-329-3096

Pacific Northwest Region
319 SW Pine Street
P.O. Box 3623
Portland, OR 97208
503-221-5139

Pacific Southwest Region
630 Sansome Street
San Francisco, CA 94111
415-556-7684

Rocky Mountain Region
11177 West 8th Avenue
P.O. Box 25127
Lakewood, CO 80225
303-236-9659

Southern Region
1720 Peachtree Road, NW
Atlanta, GA 30367
404-347-7226

Southwestern Region
Federal Building
517 Gold Avenue SW
Albuquerque, NM 87102
505-842-1407

NREE Program materials planned or available include:

Natural Resource Issue Modules

Wilderness Management
Intensive Forest Management
Integrated Forest Management
Effects of Air Pollutants on Forest Ecosystems
Old Growth Forest Management
Natural Resource Topics for Minority Audiences

Investigating Your Environment Series of Education Activities

Soil Investigation
Animal Habitat Investigation
Forest Investigation
Water Investigation
Human Community Study
Land Use Simulation